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California State Senate

SENATOR
PATRICIA WIGGINS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY,
CHAIR

January 28, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Land Trust of Napa County Grant Request - Duff Acquisition

Dear Chairman Bosco:

Your Board will soon consider a request from the Land Trust of Napa County (Land Trust) for grant funds for purchase of the Duff property, a 1,000 acre wilderness area at the northeast edge of the Napa Valley. I am very supportive of this project and regard it as a major priority for conservation of wildlife habitat and provision of recreational opportunities to residents of my District.

Purchase of the Duff property is essential to formation of a 12-mile span of undeveloped open space along the Napa Valley ridgeline between Mt. St. Helena and Angwin. This area features an extensive network of jeep trails and ridges with excellent potential for hiking, bicycling, camping, and horseback riding. Its linkage to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park enhances its value to the public.

The property also features an array of plant communities with over 300 species of plants. These form a robust habitat for large and small animal species. The substantial demand for estate home sites in scenic locations of the San Francisco Bay Area makes protection of the wildlife habitat of the Duff property a matter of great urgency.

With over 50,000 acres of land now under its protection, the Land Trust has demonstrated its expertise and effectiveness in acquiring, managing and transferring lands for the benefit of the public. I urge you and your Board to approve this timely request by the Land Trust.

Please let me know if you have any questions related to this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Wiggins".

PATRICIA WIGGINS
Senator 2nd District

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VALLEJO, CA 94590
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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
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**Assembly
California Legislature**



NOREEN EVANS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

January 14, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman *Doug* Bosco:

I write to urge your support for \$1 million in grant funds to help protect Duff Ranch in Napa County and for \$290,000 to support the development of an interim plan to manage the combination of this property and adjacent parcels as part of an expanded Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS) State Park.

With seven California habitat types, the 1,120-acre Duff Ranch property is biologically rich. In fact, studies conducted by the Nature Conservancy in 2001, identified this property as a high-priority biodiversity target for protection. Furthermore, as it is located in the Napa Coast Range of California adjacent to RLS Park, its stunningly beautiful swaths of open space are poised for public access.

Acquisition of Duff Ranch represents the critical missing link in ongoing efforts to enlarge RLS State Park from 5,200 to over 12,000 acres. The Land Trust of Napa County has been working diligently to protect this area by negotiating conservation easements with private landowners and purchasing and holding key properties, including the 3,045 acre Wildlake Ranch it purchased in 2006. Since that time, the Trust has noted the growing popularity of this area for public recreation which underscores the need for a plan that outlines appropriate uses of the land.

Opportunities such as this are extremely rare and must be seized. I urge you and the Board to support these proposals. Thank you for your consideration of my views. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours very truly,

NOREEN EVANS
Assemblywoman, 7th District

NE:am

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EMAIL: assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov
Website: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a07

RECEIVED

JAN 17 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



Napa County Regional Park
and Open Space District

John Woodbury
General Manager

January 22, 2008

Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Land Trust of Napa County Grant Request
Duff Acquisition

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District strongly supports the Land Trust of Napa County's request for grant funding to assist with their acquisition of the Duff property.

The Duff property is the key missing link connecting 12,000 acres of public and protected open space lands north and east of Calistoga. Its purchase will dramatically increase the recreational value of the Oat Hill Mine Trail which our District operates on behalf of Napa County, and create a continuous corridor of ridge top trails extending from Mount St. Helena through the Palisades, crossing the Oat Hill Mine Trail, and continuing south to the outskirts of the rural community of Angwin. It will also assure connectivity for the highly diverse and rich tapestry of habitats found in northwestern Napa County.

Thanks you for your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

John Woodbury

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2008

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



BAY AREA
RIDGE TRAIL
COUNCIL

Douglas Bosco
Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

14 January 2008

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (Ridge Trail Council) strongly supports the Land Trust of Napa County's (Land Trust) proposal to purchase in fee the 1120 acre Duff Ranch property. Acquisition of this ridgetop ranch adjoining Land Trust's newest fee title property, Wildlake, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park is the "missing link" that will preserve over 12,000 acres of northeast Napa County. The Land Trust has been working to preserve important lands in this vicinity for several years and their leadership for this new major acquisition project is commendable.

The Ridge Trail Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to complete the Bay Area Ridge Trail (Ridge Trail), a public trail route, on the ridgelines surrounding the San Francisco Bay. As planned, the Ridge Trail will connect public open spaces and parklands in the nine Bay Area counties and will provide over 550 miles of ridgeline vistas. Currently, there are 310 miles of dedicated Ridge Trail serving the recreational needs of hikers, equestrians, mountain cyclists, trail runners, and outdoors enthusiasts of all ages.

Over the last twenty years the Ridge Trail Council has worked with the Land Trust on several important open space preservation and public trail projects. The Ridge Trail's regional Board of Directors, staff and our local Napa County Committee are actively engaged in creating segments of the Ridge Trail in Napa County. To date, we have dedicated over 10 miles of the planned 37 miles through Napa. We have been invited by the Land Trust to participate in the Interim Management Plan (IMP) process that will examine opportunities for connecting the Ridge Trail with trails in this northeast part of Napa County area, including the Duff Ranch, and including them as part of the larger regional trail system we are creating. We look forward to this collaboration.

We encourage your Board to meet the Land Trust's request for Coastal Conservancy funds to help acquire this important land. Napa County has very few publicly available protected open spaces, parks or trails compared with other Bay Area Counties. With your support, the continued leadership of the Land Trust, the establishment of the Napa County Park and Open Space District in 2006, and the increasingly strong partnership with State Parks, the Land Trust is in a position to greatly increase opportunities for both habitat protection and recreational trail opportunities in this underserved Bay Area county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dee Swanhuysen".

Dee Swanhuysen, North Bay Trail Director

Cc: Land Trust of Napa County
Janet McBride, ED, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council





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Napa, CA 94559
www.redwood.sierraclub.org/napa

January 16, 2008

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Chairman Bosco:

The Napa County Group of the Sierra Club is a strong supporter of efforts by the Land Trust of Napa County (Land Trust) to purchase the 1,120 acre Duff Ranch. Our organization encourages protection, preservation and enjoyment of natural areas through political action, public education, and outdoor recreational activities. We have sponsored public hikes on public lands adjacent to the Duff Ranch for over thirty years and have had the opportunity to access the property this year. The diverse wildlife, geological formations, magnificent viewing sites and critical location between two large properties already protected by CA State Parks and the Land Trust make the ranch one of the most remarkable remaining undeveloped lands of the San Francisco Bay Area. This area represents the last large unprotected piece of intact wilderness surrounding a 15-mile system of recreational trails that connect Robert Louis Stevenson State Park to the rural community of Angwin.

We are thrilled over the prospects for protecting the Duff Ranch. It's incorporation into a region-serving natural recreational area in the northeast corner of the Napa Valley would be a remarkable accomplishment. We encourage your Board to fully fund the Land Trust's request for funds to purchase and protect the critically important lands of the Duff Ranch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elisabeth Frater'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Elisabeth Frater
Chair